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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): ~~Male~~ A male connector (13) for connecting to a female connector (1),

the female connector (1) having a female connector housing (2) with a first longitudinal axis (3) and an insertion chamber (5) enclosed by a wall (4) and open to an end face (6) of the female connector housing (2) and closed at the end, distanced thereto, by a base (8), to which first contacts (7) are arranged, projecting into the insertion chamber (5) from the base (8) and arranged parallel to the first longitudinal axis (3), wherein ~~on~~ an outer face (9) of the wall (4) enclosing the insertion chamber (5) has at least one retaining projection (10) ~~is arranged~~ projectingly, the male connector (13) comprising:

— a male connector housing (14), having a second longitudinal axis (15), and having including a first housing portion (16), insertable into the insertion chamber (5), when the longitudinal axes (3, 15) are arranged parallel to each other, with an end face (17), from which second contacts, ~~fitting to mateable with~~ the first contacts (7) ~~and for connecting to the same~~, are accessible, and said male connector housing having including an elastically deflectable locking arm (21) with locking means (23), ~~arranged opposed to~~ opposed to opposing the retaining projection (10) when connecting to the female connector housing (2),

— a slider (29), held displaceable on the male connector housing (14) along the second longitudinal axis (15) between a releasing position and a locking position and preventing in the locking position a deflection of the locking arm (21),

— at least one compression spring (27), which ~~on the one hand~~ is supported on the male connector housing (14) and ~~on the other hand~~ on the slider (29) and acts ~~onto~~ on the slider (29) to take up its locking position, and

— an elastic retaining element (35), formed from steel wire, having two spring legs (37) distanced to each other and extending from a connection portion (36) and an attachment portion (39) respectively attached to each spring leg (37) in an angled manner, wherein each attachment portion (39) engages in a separate insertion bore (33, 34) of the slider (29) and wherein the insertion bores (33, 34) extend at a right angle to the second longitudinal axis (15) and are parallel off-set to each other.

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~Male~~ The male connector according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the spring legs continue from the connection portion (36) with a winding (38) in such a way, that each spring leg (37) leaves the connection portion (36) by crossing same.

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~Male~~ The male connector according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the spring legs (37) extend starting from the connection portion (36) in such a way, that the attachment portions (39) are off-set parallel to each other.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No. 10/656,177
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Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~Male~~ The male connector according to claim 1,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the retaining element (35) is made from a round wire.